

## **EYE ON IRAQ**

**June 24, 2005**

***The people of Iraq, with help from Coalition member nations, have made progress in the past few weeks. Large and small daily accomplishments marked progress toward Iraqi self-reliance. Some contributed directly to combating terrorism while others facilitated reconstruction and economic development.***

In the 9 Nissan District of Eastern Baghdad, two major sewer and water projects are gaining momentum as crews break ground in Kamaliya and Oubaidi. After completing a thorough site survey, work has begun on a project that will ultimately create a sewer network serving 8,870 homes in Kamaliya, Iraq. The area has never had underground sewage lines and relies on slit trenches, which leads to sewage pooling in the streets. As the sewer project takes shape, an existing water distribution system will be rehabilitated. About 5,435 homes are slated to receive connections to the water main. The Kamaliya sewer and water project is currently expected to be completed in April 2006. A similar project is taking place in nearby Oubaidi. It will cost about \$14.6 million and employ up to 400 workers. In addition to the new sewer pipes, three backup generators will be purchased for Oubaidi pump stations at a cost of \$110,000 each. The project is estimated to provide 12,500 sewer connections and 12,500 water connections.



*Construction of the Yethrib Agriculture Warehouse began June 9. The agriculture warehouse will be used as a community storage and distribution center for local farmers to keep their fertilizer and farming equipment.*

Iraqi Security Forces arrested eight suspected car bomb manufacturers and seized a nearly-completed car bomb, bomb-making materials and weapons during a cordon-and-search operation in Baghdad June 15. In the opening phase of a major, sustained operation — dubbed Operation Overload — 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade Iraqi Intervention Force and D Company, 1st Battalion, 64th Armor, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, discovered a significant cache of explosives, weapons and equipment at the site of a terrorist “car bomb factory.” The nearly-completed car bomb consisted of eight 125 millimeter mortar rounds, a remote detonating system and a timer. Inside the house where the car was parked the Iraqi Special Commandos found more car bomb making materials, including 10 mortar rounds, 50 pounds of high explosives, 3,000 feet of detonation cord, 20 blasting caps and 10 firing devices.

Iraqi Security Forces and Marines and Sailors with Regimental Combat Team 2 completed Operation Spear (Romhe) June 22, concluding a five-day operation on objectives in and around the city of Karabilah, near the Syrian border. During the operation Marines, Sailors and Soldiers, rooted out terrorist strongholds. While patrolling through the small town along the border, ISF and Marines



discovered and terrorist torture house, with four hostages bound and gagged inside. The hostages received medical attention for wounds they sustained by their captors. The building where the hostages were held contained an improvised explosive device factory in the basement. This building was part of a compound containing a school with bomb-making instructions on the classroom’s blackboard. Three car bomb factories were discovered in separate locations by Iraqi Soldiers, and Marines in western Karabilah. A total of 17 car bombs were located, including a tractor-trailer, dump truck and van rigged with explosives, which were destroyed in place by a Marine tank unit.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade and 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division worked together to neutralize the insurgency in the Ghazaliyah and Bachria districts of Baghdad. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 1st Iraqi Army Brigade — with assistance from 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division — conducted a series of cordon-and-search missions in the Ghazaliyah and Bachria districts of Baghdad, in order to neutralize the insurgency. Since June 20, they have captured 27 terrorists and confiscated materials used for acts against Iraqi Army and Coalitions Forces.



***U.S. and Iraqi Army leaders compliment each other on the success of their joint mission June 21.***